



MINUTES OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION MEETING
FOR THE CITY OF LEESBURG

WEDNESDAY, October 28, 2009, 4:36 P.M.

The Historic Preservation Meeting for the City of Leesburg held their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, October 28, 2009, at 4:36 p.m. in City Commission Chambers at City Hall. The following members were present:

Robert Bone, Chairman
Guy Ross
Julian Graham
John O'Kelley
Jane Sewell

City staff present included Director Bill Wiley, Planner Mike Miller and Malina Singh, serving as board secretary.

Approval of Minutes – April 8, 2009

Robert Bone made a motion to approve the minutes for April 8th, 2009. John O'Kelley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously without discussion.

New Case Discussion

110 S. 3rd Street

The applicant is requesting to replace a roll up door with a glass store front and extend the existing awning of a commercial building.

Bill Wiley presented pictures of the proposed store front renovations; showing existing roll up door and extended awning. The renovations will be consistent with the attached unit. Staff made recommendations to approve this application since the renovations comply with the historic district guidelines.

Jane Sewell asked if there will be a smaller door opening. What is the color of the awning and date of completion?

Jerry Galbert responded that it would not be a roll up door but a wood door with glass; and presented pictures showing that the walkway will duplicate the existing door; green awning and completed by December 25th, 2009.

With no further questions, a motion was made to approve the request to replace the store front. Robert Bone seconded the motion and it was approved with a vote 5 to 0.

200 Palmetto Street – INFOTRAC, Inc

The applicant is requesting chain link fence with automatic gates to border a commercial property.

Bill Willey presented the case to the Board, showing the location of the building in the Historic District and adjacent side streets. Reasons for the fence include trespassing and security issues on the subject property. Staff made recommendations to disapprove this application since chain link fence is recommended for industrial district and do not comply with the Historic District guidelines. Staff made recommendations to the owner on what type of fencing is suitable for Historic District. Applicant is concerned with the cost of the fencing staff proposed.

Due to applicant's concerns with the cost of fencing staff proposed, Anthony Kob (owner) pleaded his case to the Board.

Robert Bone questioned the location of each entrance.

Anthony Kob responded, showing on the site plan, locations of each entrance.

Jane Sewell asked if the hedges serve as a barrier to protect the property.

Anthony Kob response was no because the property is open on the other side.

Robert Bone questioned what was going on with the houses across the street.

Anthony Kob explained that after conversation with the property owner's son, the owner is not willing to secure or improve the conditions of the property.

Robert Bone asked Bill if there is any open Code Enforcement cases.

Bill Wiley explained that he told Mr. Kob he will call Code Enforcement the next day and find out what is going on with the property.

Robert Bone stated that due to the circumstances, the owner is in an unfortunate situation. Regardless, the Historic District Preservation is responsible for bringing a more historic feel to downtown and to improve surrounding properties. Under the historic guidelines, chain link fence is

not encouraged and inappropriate for this property.

John O'Kelley questioned the number of electronic gates.

Anthony Kob response was two.

Julian Graham asked Mr. Kob if he considered eliminating some of the fencing and fences only the sidewalk and the back property. He suggested that Mr. Kob maybe be able to save money by eliminating the fence at the front of the property.

Anthony Kob explained that this is a 24/7 operation, employees use entrances at the front and back of property.

Robert Bone asked if there was any doorway on the north side of the building.

Anthony Kob response was no and further explained that after the solid wall there were windows.

John O'Kelley explained to the applicant that he didn't have any problems with the 6' black metal fence but he does with the chain link.

John O'Kelley left the meeting to attend an appointment.

Jane Sewell reminded Mr. Bone of their conversations about the train station that is a few feet away. They talked about that being used as an historic site. She explained to Mr. Kob and the Board that the decisions they make now will affect the historic site in the future.

Robert Bone pointed out that the sliding gates have a more industrial look and vertical fencing will be very prominent.

Anthony Kob explained that the gates look like part of the fence altogether.

Jane Sewell asked if any thoughts were given to add more landscaping.

Anthony Kob pointed out landscaping on drawings and suggested that it may be enhanced as time progresses. The fencing will be all around the property.

Robert Bone asked, "If you use permanent fencing down the side of the building would you leave the chain link around the generator"? In order to secure the \$25,000 generator, Mr. Kob responded yes.

Jane Sewell asked if \$17,000 includes the gate with the chain link fence and the black fence total \$27,500; \$10,500 more.

Anthony Kob response was yes.

Jane Sewell remarked that the black fence will enhance the value of the property more than the chain link for resale.

Jane Sewell made a motion to deny the application but approve a vertical fencing around the property. Robert Bone seconded the motion and it was approved with a vote 5 to 0.

General Information

Mike Miller went over Historic District Applications that were approved by staff since the last meeting. Bill Wiley pointed out the signs for Bandy Rays Place were not approved. Robert Bone commented about the sign on the side awning; they are not consistent with signs downtown. Mike Miller proposed to get Code Enforcement out there since the signs do not comply with the historic guidelines.

Restoration Sign

Staff recommended the Leesburg Public Library be recognized for its historic design which compliments the Historic District. Jane Sewell made a motion to recommend that the Leesburg Public Library, 100 E. Main St. receive the Historic Restoration Sign for the month of October. Robert Bone seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Discussion

No Business to discuss.

Next Meeting: To be determined on an as needed basis.

Robert Bone made a motion to adjourn at 5:50PM.

Robert Bone, Chairman

Malina Singh
Administrative Assistant II